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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CRACK COCAINE LIEUTENANT SENTENCED**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that ANDRE VAUGHN, 28, Evansville, Indiana, was sentenced to 192 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his conviction at trial November 15, 2002 for conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. This case was the result of a six-month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, and Firearms, Evansville Police Department, Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Vincennes Police Department, and Daviess County Sheriff's Department that resulted in the arrest and conviction of six other individuals.

The investigation included wiretaps conducted over the cellular telephone used by Karel Thomas, the leader of a crack cocaine trafficking organization operating in Evansville. During the fifteen days of wire surveillance, DEA documented that Thomas organized the manufacture and distribution of approximately 33 ounces of crack cocaine and nine ounces of

powder cocaine. DEA seized nine ounces of powder cocaine during the wiretaps. VAUGHN was the lieutenant of Thomas' cocaine distribution organization. VAUGHN frequently "cooked" powder cocaine into crack cocaine and organized the distribution of the crack and powder cocaine. Testimony of one of their accomplices demonstrated that the organization distributed over 60 kilograms of crack cocaine, with a street value of over \$2 million, in the Evansville area during the course of the charged conspiracy. Co-defendant Walter Breland was previously sentenced to 420 months imprisonment and Thomas was sentenced to 300 months imprisonment.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Young also imposed five years supervised release following VAUGHN's release from imprisonment. During the period of supervised release, VAUGHN must submit to random searches of his person and residence.

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